



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Thinking about the unthinkable

None of us can imagine witnessing what the people of First Church in Maryville, IL, saw during their early worship service on March 8, 2009.

As Senior Pastor Fred Winters, 45, stood at the pulpit delivering the morning's sermon, a man no one recognized walked to the front of the worship center and interrupted the sermon. He spoke briefly to Winters, then pulled a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun and began firing.

The first round struck a Bible being held by Winters, scattering the pages like confetti. At least one of the rounds struck Winters directly in the heart. He walked off the elevated platform and collapsed about halfway down an aisle of the 500-seat worship center.

When the assailant's gun jammed after four shots, he drew a knife and stabbed himself and two male church members who attempted to subdue him. The gunman and one of the men were rushed to the local hospital, while the other man was not seriously injured.

Winters, who was pronounced dead at the hospital, left behind a wife and two young daughters.

News reports indicated the alleged gunman, Terry Joe Sedlacek, now 31 years old, brought three 10-round clips of ammunition with him to the church — enough to cause mass carnage with the large caliber, rapid-reloading handgun he was using. That the gun jammed after only four shots, thus denying him his apparent intention to become a mass murderer, can be accurately described as a miracle.

Coincidentally, an August 2008 article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newspaper (Maryville is about 20 miles east of St. Louis) featured Sedlacek's battle with Lyme Disease. His mother described him as suffering from brain lesions and mental illness as a result of battling the disease through years of missed diagnoses and failed pharmaceutical regimens.

Neighbors told reporters that Sedlacek tended to exhibit erratic behavior but was not known to carry weapons.

Sedlacek, who was charged with first-degree murder and aggravated battery, has been the subject of years of court battles over his mental state. No trial has ever been held, and he is currently confined to a mental facility in Illinois.

Winters led the church to grow from the 30 members who were there

when he arrived in 1987, to more than 1,200 members at the time of his death. He served two terms as president of the Illinois State Baptist Association — the equivalent of the Mississippi Baptist Convention — and his church was near the top in annual gifts to the Cooperative Program.

A good man was struck down, and his family and church have been left to grieve their great loss. Could such tragedy descend on a Mississippi Baptist church? Of course it could.

Churches in general are places that count ease of access, openness, and a welcoming atmosphere as qualities that help them reach out to their communities. Almost anyone can enter one of our churches on any given Sunday. That's who we are.

However, every Mississippi Baptist church should also have an emergency plan for dealing with an assault such as was visited on the Illinois Baptist church. Along with protecting the children entrusted to us from sexual predators, such emergency planning should be of the highest priority.

How does a church go about planning for such an unthinkable tragedy? It's uncomfortable to contemplate such a thing happening at our church. It's distasteful. In our time, though, it's necessary.

Many of our churches have members who are involved with law enforcement and emergency services agencies. Asking them where to start would be an excellent first step. If no church members are available, there's not a police chief or sheriff who would turn down such a request for help. Finally, there are professional consulting companies that can assist, for a fee.

Every church should have an up-to-date list of emergency contact numbers. Churches have a notoriously large number of entry points, so monitoring all doors or even locking some of the more remote entryways may be a good idea. A "Lord's House Committee," a group of church members who patrol the premises with walkie-talkies during times of activities, is a practice already in use in several Mississippi Baptist churches.

Above all, don't sit around and do nothing on the assumption that it can't happen at your church. The members of First Church, Maryville, IL — only one of many churches in modern America to experience heartbreak on such a massive scale — might have something to say about that.

Faithfulness shows

It's easy to tell how committed a person is when it comes to just about anything. A wife who is committed to her husband is going to love him, respect him, and be faithful to him. Likewise a husband who loves his wife. A person who is committed to building a relationship will happily put in all the necessary time and effort.

Hezekiah, king of Judah, exemplified a deep commitment to the Lord, and the people responded by returning to faithful worship of Jehovah. The people's sincere devotion opened up what Malachi called many years later "the floodgates of heaven" (Mal. 3:10b). Word spread in Hezekiah's day about the joy, peace, and abundance that the Lord was bestowing upon His faithful followers.

The giving of their material wealth and finances proved the sincerity of their commitment. "The people of Israel ... brought in the tithes" (2 Chron. 31:5a, 6b). The result? Azariah the high priest told Hezekiah, "Since the people began bringing their gifts to the Lord's temple, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare. The Lord has blessed His people, and all this is left over" (2 Chron. 31:10b).

The heaps of goods Azariah showed Hezekiah were merely the leftovers of what hadn't already been distributed.

Sadly, today's average professing Christian's giving is little or nothing. If churches were filled with committed, tithing believers, I can only begin to imagine the great things churches could accomplish for the glory of God.

Let's say a church has 100 adult members, each of whom has an average annual income of only \$30,000. The tithes coming into that church would be \$300,000 each year, not to mention any other gifts the members wished to contribute.

Reality, though, paints a much gloomier picture. Only about five percent of adult church members tithe, according to a study by The Barna Group, while according to another study, more than one out of four Protestant Christians gives nothing whatsoever.

That means, in all likelihood, the church mentioned above would be operating on more like \$15,000 to \$60,000 in annual contributions.

The church for which Jesus Christ gave His life is operating at five to 10 percent of its potential. No, everything isn't about dollar figures but as Jesus summed it up, "Wherever your treasure is, there the desires



Guest opinion

with
Judy Woodward Bates

of your heart will also be" (Luke 12:34).

The fact is most churchgoers aren't so concerned with the survival of — let alone the expansion of — the Kingdom of God. If they cared, their pocketbooks would show it.

Hezekiah's people were dead serious about honoring the Lord, so much so that, "Hezekiah ordered that storerooms be prepared in the temple of the Lord. When this was done, the people faithfully brought all the tithes and gifts to the temple" (2 Chron. 31:11-12a).

The temple had run out of places to put the people's tithes and offerings and had to have storerooms added on. Apparently even with all that generosity, the people were holding back until the priests and Levites could figure out where to put everything, because as soon as the storerooms were built, the people were at it again — giving, giving, giving.

Azariah told Hezekiah, "The Lord has blessed His people, and all this is left over." Because "the people faithfully brought all the tithes and gifts to the temple," God blessed them with abundance.

Like the widow at Zerephath whose flour and oil miraculously were replenished by the Lord, the faithful tither is provided for in ways he or she has never even imagined.

Think about a farmer who's down to his last cup of corn kernels. He can hold onto it, or take it out and plant it. Hoarding it may give him enough to grind a little bit of meal, but sowing it into the field will give him enough to eat and much left over to share with others. Not immediately, but in due time.

Give generously, then trust God to multiply not only what you've held onto but also that which you've sown, "that He may lift you up in due time" (1 Peter 5:6b).

Bates, of Dora, AL, is an author, speaker, and media personality. She is on the Web at www.Bargainomics.com.

THE Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora Paul Sims, Pontotoc
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Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



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WORLD NEWS

Egyptian Christians feeling heat since Morsi departure

CAIRO (BP) — At least six Egyptian Christians have been murdered in a persecution surge following former president Mohamed Morsi's removal from office July 3. Christian persecution has intensified, CBS News reported, because Christians supported the ousting of Morsi, a Muslim Brotherhood leader who was elected to office a year ago.

"People from the Muslim Brotherhood are taking it upon themselves to wage jihad to defend Morsi and their religion," Safwat Samaan, a director at human rights group Nation Without Limits, told Morning Star News.

Attacks on Christians also are coming from Salafis, a faction of radical Islamists who walked alongside Christians and other protestors in support of Morsi's ousting, said Nina Shea, director of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom.

"No faction in Egypt had more to lose from the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamist rule than the eight million or so Christian Coptic community, the Mideast's largest non-Muslim minority," Shea said. "Without American and Western diplomatic support, the Copts' fate is looking increasingly grim."

Egypt's northern Sinai region has been a particular target for increased murders and death threats of Christians, as well as destruction of Christian-owned property, Morning Star News reported.

Kidnappings by Islamic militants have become fairly common in northern Sinai, which is home to about 5,000 Christians. Egyptian Coptic priest Yousef Soubhy told Morning Star News that the kidnapping and murder of a Christian merchant by suspected militants was intended to harass Christians.

The 60-year-old Sinai merchant, Magdy Lamei, was kidnapped July 6 and found beheaded and abandoned in a cemetery July 10, the Associated Press said. A Cop-

tic priest, Mina Aboud Sharubim, also was shot and killed July 6 in a market.

Four other Christians in southern Egypt were murdered July 5, said Samaan, human rights group director. After one of the Christians — Emile Naseem Saroufeem — was accused of killing a Muslim man, an Islamic mob sought revenge by killing Saroufeem and three others who tried to hide him.

Saroufeem was considered his village's most outspoken supporter of Morsi's overthrow, AP reported. "Emile [Saroufeem] was the de facto Tamarod [rebel] leader in the village and that did not escape the notice of the militants," AP quoted a friend of Saroufeem. "He, like other activists, received threatening text messages for weeks before he was killed."

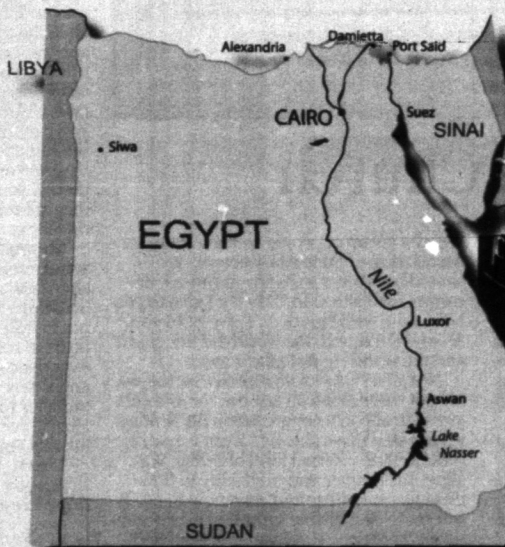
Other Egyptian Christians have received death threats, including Coptic priest Soubhy, who said he cannot return home for fear that militants will murder him, Morning Star News reported.

Reports also surfaced of churches being

"No faction in Egypt had more to lose from the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamist rule than the eight million or so Christian Coptic community, the Mideast's largest non-Muslim minority. Without American and Western diplomatic support, the Copts' fate is looking increasingly grim."

Nina Shea

director of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom



UNREST INCREASES — Unidentified anti Muslim Brotherhood/Morsi protesters in Tahrir Square shout slogans calling for Morsi's resignation June 30 in Cairo, Egypt.

looted and burned after Morsi was ousted. In addition, dozens of Coptic homes have been burned and some Christian-owned businesses and vehicles have been bludgeoned with weapons or destroyed.

The Sinai militants began an intimidation campaign against Christians several years ago, setting churches on fire, scrawling graffiti, and warning residents that the area was under Islamic control and Christians were not welcome, according to news reports.

Heightened persecution over the past

few weeks has led many Christian families to seek refuge elsewhere. "A lot of our neighbors had some of their family members that got kidnapped, and others were shot at," Fadiya Abdel Sayed, who fled from Arish with 13 other families, told Morning Star News. "I left my work and property, and my husband left his trade and everything to come to our hometown until things calm down."

More than 100 Christian families once resided in the northern Sinai community, but most have left.

U.S. NEWS

Texas Governor Perry signs new abortion regulations into law

AUSTIN, Texas (BP) — Texas Gov. Rick Perry signed House Bill 2 on July 18, protect-

ing unborn babies after the fifth month of a pregnancy and raising standards for women's health care in the state.



PERRY

"This is an important day for those who support life and for those who support the health of Texas women," Perry said. "In signing House Bill 2, we celebrate and further cement the foundation on which the culture of life in Texas is built."

As summarized by the governor's office, HB 2, in addition to banning abortions after the fifth month of a pregnancy, requires physicians who perform abortions to have hospital admitting privileges at a facility

within 30 miles. It mandates that only a physician may dispense or administer abortion-inducing drugs, and requires the physician to comply with all FDA guidelines for the drug.

The bill also requires licensed abortion facilities to meet the same minimum safety standards as ambulatory surgical centers, beginning Sept. 1, 2014.

"New research and advanced technology give prematurely-born children a renewed

chance at life, which should give us all pause as we argue the definition of viability and consider the human impact of abortion," Gov. Perry said.

"Additionally, House Bill 2 ensures that anyone performing abortions in Texas is doing so in a facility that is safe, clean and prepared to deal with any emergencies that might occur — a reasonable, common sense expectation for those caring for the health and safety of Texans.

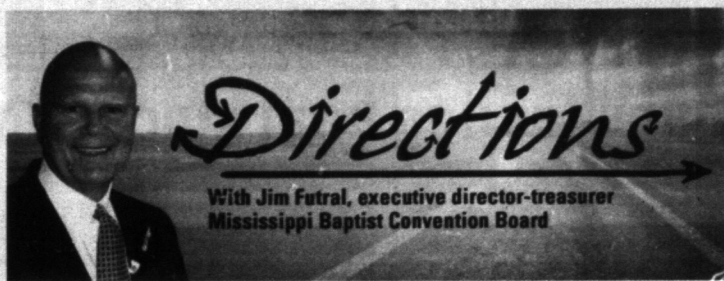
Perry called a second special legislative session to deal with the matter after opponents successfully stalled it as time expired in the first special session on June 25. The tactics brought national attention to the legislative deliberations.

HB2 passed the Texas Senate 19-11 with one Democrat voting for it as the second session ended late Friday, July 12. The Texas House easily passed the bill on July 10.

At the close of the session at the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, I had walked back to the hotel where I was staying. Coming into the lobby area I thought I would stop by the gift shop and pick up some M & M's or something to nibble on and so I went in to see what they had. Of course, it was filled with all kinds of trinkets and tourist do-dads along with a few things to eat. I realized that I was the only person in the little shop and as I was looking around, I spoke to the lady who was working there. I asked her how long she had been working there. She said, "I have been working here since the hotel opened several years ago." Since Orlando is one of the prime tourist destinations in the world and because this was at the Convention Center Complex, I said to her, "I imagine you have a variety of folks that come through here for Conventions." She said, "Yes, we do. It is really interesting." I said, "Well, what is the number one thing that people walk in here and buy?" She said, "Toothpaste." I said, "Really!" She said, "Yes."

Then I asked, "Of all of the Convention groups that you have seen come through here, is there one group that stands out as the absolute worst group of folks?" She said, "Oh, there is no question. I don't even have to think about it." I said, "Really!" I started to ask her and then I hesitated because I was afraid that she might say, "Baptists." Then I could not help myself and I said, "Well, what kind of Convention was it?" She said, "Neurosurgeons." I said, "Neurosurgeons?" She said, "Absolutely! The amazing thing is that it was not just the surgeons who had poor dispositions and were rude and impolite. It seemed like everybody with them was that way." I said, "Well, I am sorry." She said, "It is my understanding that sometimes surgeons are that way and lack a bedside manner. Everybody was talking about how inconsiderate they were."

Now let me pause and tell you that I am not picking on those folks because I do not know many of them, but this lady was really worked up about it. She added, "They may be operating on people's brains, but in my opinion every one of them needs a psychiatrist with them." I said, "Well, that may be true for all of us." I was trying to



Happy Church

get away from her because I felt like she was climbing up on her soapbox to give me a lot more than I had asked for and so I intervened and said, "Well, let me ask you this. Is there a group that stands out that is just the very best Convention group you remember coming through here?" She replied, "Oh absolutely!" I said, "Well, what group was that?" She said, "The American Association of Funeral Directors." I said, "Really!" She said, "Yep, I want to tell you that it was not just that they had a lot of fun and were a lot of fun, but they were the most considerate and thoughtful." With the same energy with which she wanted to tell me about the other folks, she wanted to tell about the folks who had obviously blessed her heart.

After listening to some of her commentary on that group I said, "Well, I hesitate to do this, but how does this group that is here for the Southern Baptist Convention fit in to this scale of the best and the worst?" She said, "Well they have all been nice." I swallowed and said, "Well, great! If by chance some of them are not nice or if they are rude and treat you badly, would you please tell me when you see me passing back and forth?" She replied, "Yes sir I will."

I saw her a few times and she never said anything so I am assuming that we got through the week without being put in the neurosurgeon's category. At the same time, I realized that we are not nearly as

happy a group of people as The American Association of Funeral Directors. We should be at least as happy as funeral directors for Jesus said, "My joy I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give unto you." As so often stated, the world did not give it and the world cannot take it away.

Not always, but sometimes whether we are out there alone on our own or as a collective group in a congregation on Sunday, we can be a miserable lot. Even worse, it is not just an internal kind of thing. We allow our despair and morbidity to flow through every fiber and corpuscle in us. It can get to be a dismal sight that every one seems to notice. Have you ever watched that show on TV called, Family Feud? I am not sure if it is still on but years ago, when Richard Dawson hosted the show I remember seeing a segment that was very revealing about church.

You know how the show worked the contestants trying to guess what responses would be given to a question. On that particular show, the question was to name a boring place. Supposedly, they went out and asked 100 people to give a number 1, 2, 3, and 4 down the list answer. The number one answer to the question was you got it - church. The number two answer that you might not guess was the funeral home. Now folks, we can do better.

First, make a decision that you are going to be happy. Contrary to popular thought, happiness is a choice. Most

of us think that it is some kind of emotional stream that flows across our hearts every once in a while and if it comes often enough, we can live in happiness. No! You decide whether you want to be happy, miserable, or delighted. No doubt, you have been with some friends or family and listened to them expressing sourness of their soul and they are so unhappy because of all of the things that are happening. While another one, who is sitting just across from them, is going through equally or much worse circumstances and they seem to have a blessed buoyancy about their spirit. You can make a choice. That is why you see some folks that regardless of what may be going on they are miserable. It seems as though some people are not happy unless they are unhappy. Other people are happy no matter what the moment may bring.

Second, God will help you in whatever you face. He will come alongside of you to remind you that there is nothing that you will face that He cannot handle. His Spirit will flood your heart to remind you that this moment, this experience and this burden will all pass and a new day will come. His Word will minister to your soul and remind you that He will never, never, never leave you or forsake you.

Third, keep in mind that oftentimes joy and simple outbursts of happiness can be contagious. Have you ever watched a mother playing with a little baby? Maybe some repetitive action is taking place like saying boo to the child, dropping a ball or some mindless activity. The child just laughs and laughs and the mother keeps doing it. The people standing around watching whether family or friends start smiling, grinning and laughing along with the child. We do not have to be happy because there is something instructing us to be happy. We just join in on the joy and are infected by it. So this week walk with God. Make a determination that you are going to show up and be a one-person crusade that affects your church with the joy of the Lord. Surely we the people of God can be as happy as the American Association of Funeral Directors!

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.

(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBL i O C I P H E R

QHU V MVFF KZO EI AKVDVO MVOCVH
IWZ, QHU BQZAG IWZ OW MQFT VH EI
AOQOZOGA, QHU IG ACQFF TGGK EI
YZUSEGHOA, QHU UW OCGE.
GJGTVGF OCVDOL-AVN: OMGHOI -
AGPGH

Clue: T = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Proverbs 5:4

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 25, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Pray this day for...

July 26 – August 8, 2013

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."
— Ephesians 6:18

Pray for: **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries to European Peoples through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of six from **FBC, Richland**, going to Scotland, 7/29-8/7.

Pray for: **John & Amy Purl**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through volunteer coordination, community outreach and encounter.

Pray for: **Eugenia & Tracy Putnam**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting.

Pray for: **Linda & Mike Ray**, missionaries to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **John & Sarah Perkins**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach and evangelism and mission support.

Pray for a team of five from **Wade BC, Moss Point**, going to Costa Rica for construction, 7/27-8/3.

Pray for: **Marty & Suzanne Roberts**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for: **Ruth & Steven Robertson**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Sharp**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/evangelism.

Pray for: **George & Geraldine Smith**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Janna Smith**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting and regional office support.

Pray for: **Nickolee & Steven Roberts**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of six from **Hillcrest BC, Byram**, going to Nicaragua for medical missions and VBS, 8/3-8/10.

These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINICS



September 9, 2013 - FBC, Cleveland
September 10, 2013 - Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain - Fisher-Washington Hall, Room 100
September 11, 2013 - Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson - 4th Floor, Sky Room
September 12, 2013 - William Carey University, Hattiesburg - Kresge Room in the Thomas Business Building

Registration: 8:30 - 9 a.m.
Preview Study: 9 a.m. - noon

No cost.

There is a \$100 travel fund available for each person attending.

Sponsored by the MBCB Sunday School Department, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 291, or E-mail: cday@mbcb.org

For more information contact the Mission Strategy office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
601-292-3291

UNLIMITED

Servants of the manifold grace of God 1 PETER 4:10

and Margaret Tucker, Offering for State Missions

GIVING GOAL: \$2,100,000

ALL-STAR SUNDAY SCHOOL TRAINING

August 23 & 24, 2013 • First Baptist Church, Brandon, MS

Cost \$25 Registration Opens 6 p.m., Friday 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Special Guests: David Francis, LifeWay • Sam Rainer III • Josh Hunt

Sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Contact us at 1-800-748-1651 ext. 291, or 601-292-3291, or cday@mbcb.org

	Comp. Program	Other	Total
ADAMS			
AQUARY	1,174.78	2,449.78	3,624.56
CLIFF TEMPLE	17,063.22	6,477.07	23,540.29
CRAINFIELD	613.00	455.00	1,070.00
ESC. NATCHEZ	77,915.17	67,598.36	145,514.23
ESC. NATCHEZ	14,388.75	11,403.40	25,792.03
HAMMOND	4,096.81	4,852.84	8,949.65
BAMMUELL	4,096.81	4,852.84	8,949.65
MORGANTOWN	10,227.71	12,004.03	20,031.74
RAUBAY	30,481.70	25,607.51	56,089.21
SPRINGFIELD	2,191.20	2,242.80	4,434.00
STANTON	9,935.36	8,101.32	17,036.68
WINDY HILL	7,717.00	2,226.43	9,943.43
ADAMS	17,063.22	6,477.07	23,540.29

ALLCOY		17,676.39	146,132.99	322,943.58
ANTIOCH	4,562.87	8,175.71	12,718.58	
BRIDGEMOUTH	2,174.71	4,251.58	6,428.29	
BROOKS PARK	783.40	1,566.80	2,350.20	
CALVARY	914.91	3,599.73	1,088.10	
COLONY LANE	250.00	3,085.50	3,335.50	
CROSSROADS CHURCH	940.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
DANVILLE	3,311.31	5,000.00	1,000.00	
DEACON JOHN	2,863.29	5,691.16	6,886.47	
FRICKSBERG MILL	1,115.36	3,271.85	127,537.39	
GRACE CHURCH	2,422.15	1,818.45	6,428.29	
GRANDVIEW	2,662.15	3,620.50	6,065.15	
HINKLE	522.52	18,694.01	26,246.31	
HOPE	444.00	810.00	810.00	
MCINTOSH	1,725.59	2,870.59	4,596.18	
MARYS CHAPEL	2,442.00	3,936.56	6,378.56	
MILL CREEK	3,418.93	9,337.56	9,396.49	
MOSSBUSH FIRST		341.00	341.00	
MOSSBUSH SECOND	300.00		341.00	
LOVE OAK	297.52	797.52	1,095.04	
LOVE HILL		797.52	1,095.04	
NORTH CORNELL	50,316.96	85,443.71	135,760.49	
OAKLAND	1,970.24	2,394.37	3,344.61	
OLIVE	6,731.84	4,130.59	10,862.43	
ORANGE	6,671.84	4,138.62	11,110.46	
PACIFIC	2,294.36	3,274.22	5,514.58	
SOUTH CORNELL	1,645.91	2,082.48	5,278.79	
SOUTH CORNELL	2,601.29	4,448.48	5,278.79	
SUNSHINING CHURCH	1,607.29	1,529.07	1,529.07	
TUSCUMBIA	96.07	1,944.52	2,280.52	
UNION	886.00	1,944.52	2,280.52	
WATKINS	27,900.70	1,877.70	10,875.40	
WILSON	47,500.00			
WHEELER GROVE				

[illegible]

NON-TIFFIN ASSOCIATION	177-22-29	3579, 109,29
ALBUQUERQUE	3,862.74	1,015.00
ASH AND	10,761.35	6,494.46
BUFF SPRINGS	537.00	2,142.41
CANAWA	150.00	1,070.00
CHALFEY	1,350.00	1,260.00
CHERRY	100.00	270.00
CONCORD	1,000.00	1,222.85
DIX CREEK	125.00	1,530.00
DUNN	18,784.50	34,463.03
FALKNER	4,634.98	9,606.16
FLY ROCKERY FLAT	4,951.18	17,912.22
FR. RIPLEY	55,323.46	17,912.22
HELLOSHIP	2,353.00	5,372.00
FLAT ROCK	1,000.00	7,775.00
HAMILTON	1,248.23	301.40
HOLLYWOOD	11,290.68	19,765.00
LEBANON	100.00	31,025.64
LOWMY MEMORIAL	7,848.17	16,170.01
MCNEIL	1,122.00	1,558.00
MC MORRIS	4,262.89	2,558.00
MC PHEE	959.93	1,088.46
NORTH RIPLEY	2,277.25	1,189.63
OHIO AND	6,707.48	6,243.21
PHILMER	34.40	9,988.28
PINE GROVE-DUMAS	7,655.30	6,694.99
PINE GROVE-HOLORY FLAT	1,400.00	1,349.90
PLEASANT HILL	1,784.00	1,784.00
PLEASANT HILL	2,949.00	1,641.00
PROVIDENCE	1,300.00	4,878.75
RAILROAD GAVE	1,222.47	23,503.47
SPRING CREEK	2,000.00	1,827.41
WHEELVILLE	2,000.00	1,950.00
WALNUT	905.51	4,950.00
WEST RIPLEY	8,708.46	18,201.30
WHEATLAND	292.00	1,000.00
WHEATLAND	90.00	1,000.00

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HOURLY Total	149,978.06	177,864.50	327,842.56
ASSOCIATION		400.00	400.00
BLACK HAWK	628.90	628.90	1,257.80
VALUARY	2,204.65	2,592.47	4,797.12

	Coast Program	Other	Total
CARROLLTON	14,022.92	42,964.00	56,976.92
CENTVILLE	619.95	2,550.00	3,169.95
CHICKSBORO	1,000.00	1,400.00	2,400.00
HILL VILL	1,600.00	1,319.00	2,919.00
LIBERTY	5,155.68	6,694.63	11,850.31
MALDEN	10,242.50	10,242.50	20,485.00
MCCARLEY	4,202.00	2,759.00	6,961.00
MITCHELL	9,164.61	2,689.24	11,853.85
MITCHELL	4,592.49	2,689.24	7,281.73
NEW BRITAIN	2,145.83	3,476.10	5,621.93
NEW HAVEN	1,000.00	968.89	1,968.89
NORTH CARROLLTON	7,560.48	7,526.25	15,086.73
PROVIDENCE	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
SHILOH	2,229.00	7,919.00	10,148.00
VALLEY HILL	23,206.82	22,521.21	45,728.03
CARROLL TOWN	87,111.17	137,942.91	225,054.08

CHICKASAW			
ADAMS	2,116.95	1,249.00	3,385.96
ARBOR GROVE	3,911.50	7,027.97	10,939.47
BETHEL	4,091.82		4,091.82
BLOOMINGDALE	1,018.70		1,958.70
FB: HOULKA	3,754.00	940.00	4,694.00
FB: HOULKA	1,788.00		1,788.00
FB: HOUSTON	58,642.69	25,348.48	83,991.17
FB: JEFFERSON	16,178.07	13,045.34	29,223.41
FB: WOODLAND			
FELLOWSHIP	586.24	356.00	942.24
MCINTOSH		356.00	356.00
MT OLIVE	880.88	1,270.00	1,000.00
NEW PROSPECT	300.00	150.00	450.00
PARKWAY	1,000.00	2,262.68	27,870.00
PLEASANT GROVE	1,370.00	2,110.00	3,480.00
PLEASANT GROVE	1,430.00	970.00	1,420.00
PLEASANT GROVE	1,430.00	1,420.00	1,420.00
SCHOONER VALLEY	611.50	3,631.42	4,242.92
SHILOH		1,020.00	1,420.00
VALENTINE			
CHICKASAW Total	109,815.98	70,143.55	188,959.53
CHOCTAW			
ACKERMAN	9,000.00	14,395.98	23,395.98
BETHLEHEM	250.00	375.00	625.00
BLOOMINGDALE	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
BYLER CREEK	1,072.35	2,037.00	3,615.62
CHESTER	7,528.33	6,301.27	13,324.62
COX ROAD	88.91		88.91
CROSS ROADS	6,000.00	740.05	7,440.05
FELLOWSHIP	1,361.10	1,783.37	3,144.47
FENTRESS	700.00		1,010.00
FRENCH CAMP	2,518.07	2,899.01	5,417.08
GREENVIEW	1,753.00	1,690.00	4,443.00
MT MORIAH	1,040.00	1,040.00	1,040.00
MT PROCAH	1,145.96	8,010.66	11,956.32
NEW JEW	1,650.75	795.52	2,446.27
NEW ZION	1,220.03	1,218.67	2,438.70
PROVIDENCE		2,000.00	2,000.00
VALENTINE	2,884.43		3,404.80
WATER	5,525.07	6,351.54	12,676.61

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MAH			
ANTIOCH	1,922.13	935.00	2,858.13
ARIZONA	4,999.00	3,764.43	10,763.43
COUNTY LINE	1,010.00	1,010.00	
DAMASCUS	254.57	104.33	358.90
DAYTON	37,232.00	37,232.00	
MC HAZELBUR	8,333.31	17,013.19	25,346.50
DECATUR	1,000.00		1,000.00
GALLMAN	498.58	3,741.44	4,240.02
CATSKVILLE	2,366.41	2,966.28	5,332.69
CLARK COUNTY	4,411.01	2,233.13	6,644.14
HARMONY	1,560.18	3,885.10	5,445.28
RICHLAND	4,000.00	4,074.10	7,074.10
PROPERT	1,620.00	3,799.00	5,419.00
NEW PROVIDENCE	2,446.00	2,446.00	2,895.00
PEARL VALLEY	10,565.46	10,566.61	21,132.07
PLUMS BERT	1,755.00	1,863.33	3,618.33
PLUMS BERT	11,768.89	1,404.58	15,270.47
PLUMS BERT			15,270.47
PLEASANT HILL	1,413.00	1,657.24	3,070.24
SPRING LAKE SPRINGS	1,710.00	2,000.00	2,170.00
ROCK HILL	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
SARDIS	1,657.21	2,202.79	4,448.21
SHILOH GROVE	1,000.00	2,708.00	13,114.81
SHIRAZ	100.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
SPRING LAKE	600.00	935.00	1,535.00
SPRING LAKE HOPE	9,100.00	9,100.00	20,160.00
SYLVANIA	3,000.00	1,596.00	5,560.00
WESTSIDE	14,206.56	8,261.00	22,467.56
WESTSIDE	4,999.00		5,000.00
WYOMING	10,345.00	10,345.00	15,242.58
YOUTH			

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AREA	1972-1973	1974-1975	1976-1977
ANKENI	440.40	250.00	690.40
BUNIP	1,620.00	1,700.00	2,895.00
CONCORD	2,010.10	1,750.50	3,740.60
DANASSIS	599.00	1,355.00	1,114.00
ELK CREEK	8,472.50	214.00	9,616.50
FR. BR. CO.	2,427.93	1,925.00	4,352.93
HAWBURG	2,113.00	2,722.00	4,835.00
HEWLETT	58.29	2,722.00	2,780.29
LUCAS	634.00	1,100.00	1,734.00
MC CALL CREEK	10,311.91	6,953.00	17,425.80
MEADVILLE		700.00	
MT. ZION	911.25	1,800.00	2,766.25
NEW HOPE	508.04	1,105.00	1,613.04
NEW PALM	10,000.00	1,000.00	11,000.00
OTZON	68.00	567.62	635.62
PASADENA VALLEY	3,081.00	3,781.00	6,862.00
RAMAH	108.77	1,684.71	1,793.48
ROCKE	5,774.01	7,694.35	13,468.36
SAFETY	4,398.70	8,899.70	13,298.40
SILVAM	2,400.00	9,258.18	11,658.18

	Comp. Program	Other	T
SPRINGHILL INCOME	273.43		273.43
FRANKLIN Total	5,153.60	39,362.12	89,295.88
GEORGE-GREENE			
ARCADIA	21,349.32	22,790.73	43,840.05
AVILA	2,612.10	5,314.10	7,926.20
AVILA	600.66	407.24	1,018.16
BEVERLY	31,416.70	10,400.05	41,816.75
BOLEY	12,059.44	7,742.30	19,801.74
BROWN GROVE	1,209.44	10,835.84	12,045.28
CLOYMANT	1,209.44	7,742.30	8,951.74
EAST SLEM	1,209.44	8,795.00	12,263.91
FR. BEARLE	2,612.10	2,612.10	5,224.20
FR. LEAKSIDE	19,795.23	11,005.79	30,801.02
FR. LIGALLE	27,066.41	36,110.93	63,177.34
FR. LIGALLE	27,066.41	36,110.93	63,177.34

ERIC SAND HILL	6,538.28	11,224.20	17,662
HERITAGE	1,893.01	2,691.81	4,586
HERITAGE	855.79	1,011.91	1,668
LEAF	1,845.70	1,690.00	3,495
OLDWAY	5,373.13	4,778.66	10,151
MOCHABA	10.00		
NEELY	3,625.00	1,471.00	5,096
NEW BEGINNING			
NEW HOPE	1,636.08	5,169.08	6,805
NEW LIFE			3,204
NORTH-SIDE	123.13	1,220.00	1,343
PAVE	1,465.00	1,220.00	2,685
PINE LEAF	467.30	471.07	940
PLEASANT HILL	2,964.00	3,151.00	6,115
ROCKY CREEK	30,964.99	30,584.30	61,549
SOUTH HAVEN	19,964.51	18,541.93	37,606
SOUTHERN	1,011.00	778.77	1,789
UNITY	4,007.15	3,942.56	7,949
VALLEY SALON		800.00	14,018
GRANDS TRENTAL Total	209,120.15	211,279.99	421,066
GOLDEN TRIANGLE			
ADATION	21,704.33	11,596.67	33,301.00
ARTESIA	5,620.00	2,687.00	8,307.00
ATHLETIC	600.00	2,815.85	4,997.00
BETHESDA	3,815.80	7,615.00	11,428.00
BORDER SPRINGS	9,482.00	7,615.00	17,097.00
CALIFORNIA LUMBUS	1,000.00	5,987.00	6,987.00
CALVARY STARPOINT	18,615.00	11,900.00	30,515.00
CALVARY WESTVILLE	21,367.87	6,279.44	27,647.31
CEDAR BLUFF	4,513.64	4,096.63	10,590.00
CEDAR BLUFF	1,300.48		2,121.40
ENTER GROW	2,717.00	8,833.00	11,550.00
ENTER GROW	1,941.00	988.95	2,929.95
CROSSLINK CHURCH	20,263.00	12,948.42	32,261.42
DAVIDSON CHURCH	1,150.00	1,775.00	4,225.00
DOOR SPRINGS	11,344.50	17,032.00	28,376.50
EAST END	14,745.46	7,110.92	21,856.38
FAIRVIEW		275.00	275.00
FAIRVIEW	192,213.25	187,000.00	380,000.00

FAITH STARVILLE	6,420.00	6,767.00	13,187.00
FAITH POINT		4,172.14	4,172.14
FRK COLUMBUS	82,212.18	109,353.18	197,565.36
FRK MAHON	3,356.62	1,640.00	2,996.62
FRK WILSON	147,318.00	193,551.88	240,909.88
FRK WEST POINT	47,504.86	90.00	47,694.86
FELLOWSHIP	8,850.78	4,376.25	13,227.03
FRIENDS OF COLUMBUS		1,286.76	1,286.76
FRNDSHIP-STARVINGS	10,217.00	3,724.00	13,941.00
GARIBON	1,352.43	1,997.00	3,349.52
HOPE	1,309.93	750.00	2,059.93
HOPE	8,998.37	3,398.28	4,708.27
HOPE	7,002.00		7,002.00
KOLLA SPRINGS		12,457.01	8,898.37
LONGVIEW	2,674.90	3,810.65	6,485.55
LONGVIEW	1,968.89	1,822.88	5,791.77
MEADOWVIEW		2,586.76	2,586.76
MORGAN CHAPEL	17,222.58	6,102.18	23,324.76
MORGAN CHAPEL		1,000.00	1,000.00
MOUNTAIN VIEW		2,011.00	2,011.00
MT ZION	32,063.33	40,254.54	72,317.87
MURKINS CHAPEL	273.01	910.00	1,184.02
NEW HAVEN		2,752.00	2,752.00
NEW HOPKINSVILLE	1,935.76	4,256.16	6,191.92
NEW LIFE		925.00	925.00
NEW LIFE ANTWERP	3,683.57	4,000.00	7,683.57
NEW PALM	22,038.72	40,384.41	62,423.13
NEW SALAM	10,231.61	1,358.10	8,293.91
NEW SALAM	25,724.00	23,529.00	49,253.00
NEW TRINITY CHURCH		638.67	1,715.98
PLYMOUTH	1,077.33		2,335.98
RIVERSIDE CHAPEL	2,656.84	1,290.25	3,947.09
SAN CERR	1,486.69	2,602.00	4,088.69
SEBECIA CHAPEL	3,646.66	4,711.11	8,357.77
SHILOH	82,000.00	83,000.00	165,000.00
SOUTH FORTH CHINESE	600.00	600.00	1,200.00
STATE UNIV	1,537.18	2,081.15	3,618.33
STARVINGS	4,834.98	9,999.98	14,834.96
STARVINGS	1,652.66	1,803.00	3,455.66
STARVINGS		900.00	900.00
WAKE FOREST		12,573.50	24,768.00
WEST END	12,196.02		24,768.00

GRAND TRIANGLE Total			
	852,913.32	741,900.00	1,594,813.32
GULF COAST			
BAV VISTA	13,189.86	533.00	13,722.86
BAV VISTA FELLOWSHIP	2,000.00		2,000.00
BAV VISTA	2,000.00	13,875.36	16,000.00
BAVSEA	210.00		210.00
BAYVIEW	17,260.21	1,584.39	18,844.60
BIG HILL	13,692.00	1,952.14	15,644.14
BIG RIDGE	23,664.34	467.21	24,131.55
BONDS	5,478.00		5,478.00
BROADMOOR	366.95	736.95	1,103.90
BROWN CREEK	863.61		863.61
COWAN ROAD		1,093.54	2,956.56
CROSSPOINT	4,079.07	1,748.14	5,827.21
CROWN	2,500.00		2,500.00
EAST FORWARD	60.00	462.53	604.00
EVANHIL	60.00	462.53	604.00
FAITH HARBOR	5,368.21	1,858.00	7,226.21
FRY BAR ST LOUIS	34,317.77	3,476.00	37,793.77
FRY BAR	87,361.38	6,927.49	149,288.87
FRY DELUSE			
FRY FLUORIDE	69,317.72	77,540.77	146,858.49
FRY HARBOR	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
FRY LYMAN	10,149.03	10,832.60	20,981.63
FRY MARY	1,903.24	655.10	2,558.34
FRY MC CHRISTIAN	1,903.24	4,768.12	6,671.36
FRY MILLER	300.00	300.00	600.00
FRY SANCHEZ	39,183.84	27,104.41	66,288.27
FRY SHAW	1,000.00	200.00	1,200.00
FRY STEWART	2,000.00		2,000.00
FRY WOOD			
HERSTOLD			
IRISH SUB FARLEINGTON			

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GRUGER	1,422.89	4,150.00	2,862.84
GRINZER	1,167.00	695.00	1,862.00
GRUB DOUBANT	2,282.47	6,518.96	10,801.41
GRUB LORING	11,334.32	5,620.00	17,144.32
GRUB THULONA	1,250.00	3,414.65	4,664.65
GRUB HORSEHOE	300.00	300.00	600.00
GRUB MAIN STREET	2,498.65	4,671.66	8,970.11
GRUB PLEASANT	215.40	2,985.00	5,300.40
GRUB VERNON	164.50		164.50
GRUB OAK GROVE	490.00	690.00	1,180.00
GRUB GREEN MEMORIAL	625.00		625.00
GRUB PLEASANT	1,758.99	530.00	1,668.99
GRUB PLEASANT RIDGE	2,383.92	1,409.95	3,873.87
TOTALS Total	34,839.47	36,010.09	70,849.56

	Comp. Programs	Other
HUMPHREYS		
BE LARK	5,674.12	4,248.20
BE CALVARY	306.23	8,932.00
EASTSIDE	16,645.48	13,125.00
BE LARKSON	1,400.41	29,700.00
BE ISOLA	4,591.71	5,483.35
BE LARKSON	2,006.42	2,000.00
GOODEN LANE	2,030.00	2,000.00
BE LARKSON	1,182.95	1,231.97
HUMPHREYS Total	48,531.56	74,224.94
ITAWAMBA		
ANTIOCH	1,574.80	300.00
BETHANY	300.00	-
CALVARY	1,104.25	-
DORSEY	628.20	1,439.57
BE LARKSON	2,000.00	2,000.00

FBC FLUID	15,341.00	6,696.00	21,827.00
KIRKLAND	1,301.73	1,616.93	2,918.66
LAKELAND	3,103.83	1,616.93	4,720.76
MORNING VIEW	750.00	2,626.00	3,376.00
POPULAR SPRINGS	889.21	1,107.70	2,096.91
PROVIDENCE	2,573.00	1,397.41	3,970.41
SALES	1,741.00	477.00	2,218.00
SHELL	860.00	8,020.00	8,880.00
TREMONT FBC	918.80	645.68	1,564.48
TOTAL	72,227.00	3,170.00	10,393.00
ITAWAMBA TOTAL	72,227.00	151.50	10,393.00
	72,227.00	42,648.30	114,875.30

JACKSON

ARLINGTON HTS	23,482.94	29,746.82	53,229.76
BELLE FOUNTAIN	12,727.62	7,173.76	19,901.38
CALVA	2,768.31	2,889.89	5,658.20
CAMBRIDGE	2,403.31	2,173.76	4,577.07
EAST CROSS POINT	4,539.00	8,867.00	13,406.00
EASTMAN	1,064.31	3,448.77	4,513.08
EMMANUEL	4,262.35	5,764.58	10,026.93
EX-SARAWA	14,271.47	9,372.59	23,644.06
FBC CAULDER	4,479.52	46,188.58	50,668.10
FBC HELENA	4,218.00	8,647.18	12,865.18
FBC HUNTER	13,338.23	24,822.88	38,161.11
FBC OCEAN SPRINGS	11,184.86	3,448.77	14,633.63
FBC ORANGE GROVE	2,870.00	1,293.56	4,163.56
FBC PASCAGOULA	22,710.90	31,923.87	54,634.77
FBC VANCELAKE	22,710.90	31,923.87	54,634.77
JOINT BAYOU	600.00	135.00	735.00
LAKE ANDY CREEK	7,989.02	1,616.00	9,605.02
FRANKLIN CREEK	5,799.02	2,967.00	8,766.02
LAKE OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWS	3,782.52	859.41	4,641.93
POCANTON	1,466.33	1,466.33	2,932.66
HURLE	11,560.33	10,541.62	22,101.95
INCALLS AVENUE	12,768.33	17,733.59	30,501.92
LAUREL	1,500.00	1,778.00	3,278.00
LARUE	5,601.00	1,090.00	6,691.00
LAKEONE BLVD	5,450.59	4,738.64	10,189.23
LULLY ORCHARD	1,172.00	1,172.00	2,344.00

MAGNOLIA	754.83		
MARTIN BLVD	1,078.84		3.745
MCCLELLAN ROAD	600.00	2,868.44	
MIDWAY	708.56	1,156.05	
MIDWAY	2,497.53	2,533.53	5,145.35
PATHWAY		401.54	458.14
PEAK LAKE	550.00	2,279.79	2,779.79
PROVIDENCE	150.00		1.50
RANSAY HILL	393.80	393.80	
RED HILL CROWN		1,151.00	2,488.00
RIDGE LA HEIGHTS	15,659.37	15,757.91	31,417.28
RYERSIDE	8,392.76	17,151.67	25,544.43
SAVING	6,525.37	6,525.37	10,485.37
WADE	44,518.80	25,964.80	70,483.60
WATER HAVEN	2,476.08	1,288.12	3,764.20
JACKSON TWP	360,881.79	404,772.37	771,653.33
JASPER			
ANTIOCH	4,307.86	3,200.00	7,507.86
BAV SPRINGS	34,469.87	61,952.50	96,422.37
BETHANY	1,451.00	1,347.75	2,798.75
CALVARY	1,161.84	5,562.56	6,724.40
CORINTH		3,790.49	5,479.49
CREEDENCE	1,936.68		3,790.49
EDON		375.00	375.00
ELM	15,480.31	7,150.00	22,630.31
FAIR RIDGE	1,020.00	1,100.00	2,120.00
FBC MOSS	933.00	504.00	1,437.00
FBC ROCK HILL	1,866.75	1,866.75	3,733.50
FELLOWSHIP	4,307.55	2,899.68	7,207.23
HERRLBERG	3,513.62	4,425.00	7,938.62
LARK CREEK	2,081.31		3,790.49
LIBERTY		785.00	3,875.31
LOCAL			
MONROE MT	4,531.66	5,306.40	9,838.06
MT NEBO	1,884.06	43.00	1,927.06
NEW BEGINNINGS	1,646.44	7,808.63	9,455.07
NEW FELLOWSHIP	1,302.08		3,008.00
TRINITY	1,272.80	742.80	2,015.60
SHADY GROVE FIRST	294.46	1,596.30	1,890.76
TRINITY	2,454.01	2,454.01	4,908.02
UNION SEMINARY	414.00		782.00

REPORT ITEM	84,633.83	117,526.04	202,159.88
JONES			
BETHLEHEM	300.00	954.00	1,254.00
CENTERVILLE	300.00	538.57	838.57
COUNTY LINE	2,100.00		
EASTVIEW	2,481.70	4,572.17	7,053.87
FIELD	2,160.00	1,282.00	3,442.00
HART	6,034.59	11,426.46	17,461.05
HILLVILLE	140.00		
LAUREL	62,877.47	41,483.75	104,361.22
MONTICENT	128,519.80	194.61	128,714.41
NEWTON	991.41	948.00	1,939.41
PACIFIC	22,488.00	10,875.00	33,363.00
PACIFIC COAST	337.35	6,541.00	6,878.35
PACIFIC COAST	3,000.00	6,590.04	9,590.04
PACIFIC COAST	480.19	203.41	683.60
PACIFIC COAST	19,249.50	12,777.27	32,026.77
PACIFIC COAST	489.11	3,028.08	3,517.19
PACIFIC COAST	144.30	1,183.00	1,327.30
PACIFIC COAST	5,250.00	6,798.13	12,048.13
PACIFIC COAST	37,451.07	34,187.35	71,638.42
PACIFIC COAST	4,077.70	2,995.40	7,073.10
PACIFIC COAST	2,523.93	3,812.11	6,336.04
PACIFIC COAST	192,188.44	7,231.31	199,419.75
PACIFIC COAST	1,000.00	8,476.78	9,476.78
PACIFIC COAST	15,100.00	11,468.42	26,568.42
PACIFIC COAST	1,350.00	1,350.00	2,700.00
PACIFIC COAST	631.20	499.00	1,130.20
PACIFIC COAST			

PARK DRIVE	3,325.00	4,847.00	11,000.00
PEACAN GROVE	900.00	925.00	1,825.00
PINE CREEK	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
PINEVIEW	2,884.03	3,892.10	6,776.13
PLANNING	125.83	146.10	238.93
PLEASANT HOME	75.00	75.00	150.00
SALEM HEIGHTS	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
SEASIDE	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
SANDERSVILLE	21,501.00	17,379.58	20,381.54
SELTON	3,382.00	2,123.49	10,705.45
SLAVERDALE	1,000.00	2,283.45	3,283.45
TALLAHOMA	75.00	75.00	150.00
THE FAIRWAY	7,063.32	10,000.00	17,063.32
TUCKERS CROSSING	41,669.80	38,769.28	12,792.45
UNITY	2,000.00	2,123.00	2,123.00
WEST ELLISVILLE	1,000.00	1,170.41	2,865.41
WEST LABEL	6,815.80	7,000.00	13,815.80
JONES HILL	599,214.95	47,553.76	1,026,768.71
KEMPER			
BAY SPRINGS	2,746.17	1,215.00	3,961.17
BLACKWATER	1,671.00	2,594.12	4,265.12
BUFF SPRINGS	802.37		802.37
CENTER HILL	1,000.00	3,620.00	4,620.00
CORINTH	1,103.10	2,555.00	3,758.10
CRANFORD	6,108.49	8,079.00	14,187.49
DEER CREEK	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
LIBERTY	462.00	1,037.00	1,499.00
SALEM	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
SCOTLAND	2,088.25	5,726.00	7,814.25
UNION	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00
VANDANUM	2,118.15	1,200.00	3,318.15
YARDMAN	79.00	79.00	158.00

WALNUT	500.00	580.00	1,080.00
KEMPER DAM	24,288.00	32,273.89	56,561.89
LAFAYETTE			
ANCHOR	30,216.00	21,330.00	51,546.00
BAY SPRINGS	491.61	1,757.18	2,250.81
CAJALMAR	3,624.00	2,062.00	8,991.00
CREEK CREEK	16,059.07	13,767.00	29,826.07
COLLIER HILL HEIGHTS	9,335.66	8,921.16	15,176.82
DELAWARE	1,226.00	2,226.00	3,452.00
DENHAM	240.00	160.00	400.00
FAITH		696.00	696.00
FR. ARB. VILLAGE	10,426.32	15,111.86	25,538.18
GREENBRIER	154,195.35	103,943.58	258,039.93
NEW BRIGHT	2,108.10	2,108.10	6,072.30
NEW HOPE	798.30	1,262.02	2,051.32

[illegible]

[illegible]

Crossroads: Being a Christian in today's society

The American culture has been bombarded with so many unbiblical points-of-view that Christians are finding themselves overwhelmed, frustrated, discouraged, and/or helpless.

On any given Sunday in Mississippi, Christians assemble and worship God together. When they return to their weekly routine they are often faced with the reality that their world around them is getting darker and darker.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently struck down the Defense of Marriage Act, and now it no longer recognizes legitimate marriage as only between one man and one woman. Also, the same high court basically said that a citizen-driven, marriage amendment has no legal standing. The homosexual agenda has pushed its way into the Boy Scouts of America claiming that homosexual behavior among its members

is to be morally accepted.

Christians want their community, state, and nation to reflect biblical values, but many choose to withdraw from active duty and enter into reserve status due to

intense, worldly opposition, apathy, and the time it requires to get involved and make a difference.

They sit on the sidelines of life and give up on trying to uphold and preserve what is good or they ignore the problems at hand. Neither approach is biblical, however.

What Christians are likely struggling with is how to maintain both their identity of "who they are" as believers and their calling of "what they are to do" in an impure and dark world.

In this struggle, it is important

to understand that a Christian's identity and calling are not mutually exclusive. A Christian's identity does not exist in a vacuum nor is it independent of his or her calling. Christians cannot segment

their life as a Christian by ignoring the evil around them... meaning go to church on Sunday and put their head in the sand the rest of the week... and still be living a life in honor to the Lord. Jesus is Savior AND Lord. He has saved Christians for a purpose, not a destination alone.

Paul makes this clear in Ephesians by drawing the necessary relationship between a Christian's identity of being "alive with Christ" (2:5) with the calling to "live as children of light" and to "Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." (5:8, 11). Here, Paul is echoing what Jesus had already said as recorded in Matthew 5:13-14. In this passage, Jesus declares his followers "salt of the earth" and "light of the world."

Salt and light is who Jesus said his followers are, not what they do. This is a declaration of an inherent, Christian identity that is essential to who they were as disciples, and this was in an age when the culture around them was adamantly opposed to Jesus' teachings. Times have not changed since then.

Jesus' intention of their new identity, as it is for Christians today, was to have a cause-and-effect relationship on the world around them. True, they were to proclaim the Gospel and make disciples, but Christ knew the unsearchable depths of the depravity of an impure and dark world.

God chose the act of proclamation of the Gospel to change the hearts of humanity (Rom. 1:16), the act of preservation to retard the natural degradation of society (Matt 5:13), and the act of illumination to reflect Christian morality (Matt. 5:14).

There must be a balance between these three: proclamation, preservation, and illumination. Equating, emphasizing, or excluding any one of the three produces an imbalance in Christ's design for Christianity.

The Gospel is not simply opposing sin in society or passing laws that preserve religious liberty. Neither is the Gospel-handing someone a drink of water. Handing someone a drink of water, opposing sin, and preserving righteousness is an outward expression of a life that has been transformed by the Gospel.

From 2000-2010, as a demonstration of the faithfulness of Baptists, the total Cooperative Program giving of the Southern Baptist Convention has been on average over \$500 Million per year or approximately \$5 Billion. If money were the answer, Baptists would have transformed America and the world. Baptists have had the resources to communicate the Gospel and have been diligent in sharing the content of the Gospel message. This begs the question as to where the disconnect has been?

A logical conclusion could likely be a disconnect in the area

of preservation and illumination from the act of proclamation. Christians are certainly guilty of not preserving and illuminating in society the biblical portrait of God's love story to humanity. God chose marriage and family to be the fundamental illustration of who He is to a lost and dying world, but Christians, Baptists included, have neither been consistent in demonstrating biblical marriage nor successful in preserving it.

There are just as many divorces in the church as there are outside the church. Also, unmarried Christians are living together and having sex outside of marriage, but no one seems to be "exposing the fruitless deeds of darkness" within church walls. Even in marriage, many husbands and fathers have forsaken their role as the spiritual leader of their home. Many of them have absconded from their call and become pontificators of sports fodder or consumed with hobbies or work that alienates them from their wife and children. If the church cannot, or better yet, *refuses* to rectify her internal marriage problems, then how can she, having rocks in hand, speak with credibility into the American culture that sees this disconnect? Husbands must take responsibility for their own sin and seek reconciliation in their family and take seriously their call by God to lead.

The church must take a balanced approach in defending, preserving, and illustrating marriage.

Chambers serves as consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3331 or rchambers@christianaction.com.



with Rob Chambers

MS POSITIONS

FULL-TIME SENIOR PASTOR—New Hope Baptist Church, Clarksdale area. Send resumes to 6573 Highway 145, Meridian, MS 39301 NLT August 31, 2013, ATTN: Pastor Search Committee.

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

APRIL 2013

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God Promises the Messiah • Isaiah 53:2-12

New Testament writers identified many Old Testament passages as messianic, predicting Jesus' coming or foretelling of His ministry. Few Old Testament passages received the attention Isaiah 53 did in this regard. As we continue to examine God's Story, we observe how Isaiah 53 was viewed as a description of the nature and role of the coming Messiah. This lesson can help you speak with greater confidence about Jesus as the promised Messiah since it reminds us of how God foretold His coming.

Our focal passages are part of what scholars call the Fourth Servant Song (Isa. 52:13-53:12; the first three songs are in 42:1-4; 49:1-6; and 50:4-9. Each song focuses on some aspect of the Servant's ministry. This fourth servant song focuses on the Servant's self-sacrifice for sinners and the suffering He endured on their behalf.

The Messiah Became One of Us (Isa. 53:2-3)

John identified Jesus with the Eternal Word and then reminded us "the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us" (John 1:14; NIV). Like John, Isaiah wrote about a Servant who became one of us. In fact, Isaiah's Servant grew up "like a tender shoot" and "like a root out of dry ground" (53:2a). Both phrases indicate an ominous start in this life. Additionally, the Servant's description as having "no beauty or majesty to attract us" and "nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him" re-

inforced the idea He would not gain a large following among His countrymen (53:2b; John Martin, BKC, 1:1107). His presence in human history is verified even more by the harsh reception He received. Isaiah reminds us, "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows" (53:3a). The prophet also compared Him to "one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed Him not" (53:3b).

During His earthly ministry, Jesus did not convince the vast majority of the Jewish leaders or the Jewish people He was their Messiah. From the time He read Isaiah 61:1-2 in the Nazareth synagogue, someone always was trying to kill Him. Yet, the facts that He walked among His countrymen, taught and read Scripture in their synagogue, and healed their sick prove that He became one of them. He understood perfectly the human condition from a human's point of view!

The Messiah Suffered For Us (Isa. 53:4-9)

Isaiah's Servant was a suffering servant.



Bible Studies for Life

with W. Wayne VanHorn

People considered Him "stricken by God, smitten by Him, and afflicted" (53:4b). He was pierced and crushed (53:5). Either of these verbs would be sufficient to describe horrific treatment at the hands of one's fellowman, but Isaiah wanted to emphasize just how appalling sinners sinned against God's sinless Servant. To these verbs Isaiah added "oppressed and afflicted," "taken away," "cut off," and "stricken;" he also added nouns like "punishment," "wounds," "slaughter," "oppression," and "judgment" (53:5-8).

Running throughout this passage is the theme of vicarious suffering. The Servant did not suffer because He deserved it, but rather, because we deserved it. He suffered on our behalf! Isaiah drove this point home by saying, "Surely He took our infirmities and carried our sorrows" (53:4a), "He was pierced for our transgressions," "He was crushed for our iniquities," and "the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed" (53:5). Indeed, "the Lord laid

on Him the iniquity of us all" (53:6). Additionally, "for the transgression of My people He was stricken" (53:8b). All of this suffering was for us, "though He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth" (53:9b).

The Messiah Rescues Us (Isa. 53:10-12)

The wages of sin are always death! Yet, Isaiah's Suffering Servant rescued those who believed in Him from the penalty of their own sins. Thus Isaiah wrote, "The will of the Lord will prosper in His hand" (53:10b). Through Isaiah, God promised, after His suffering, the Servant will see "the light of life" (53:11a). As a result, His righteous Servant "will justify many" and "He will bear their iniquities" (53:11b).

No one more faithfully served God during this earthly sojourn than Jesus; no one suffered so vicariously or undeservedly. Thus, Philip used Isaiah 53 to initiate his witness for Christ and to lead the Ethiopian eunuch to faith in Jesus (Acts 8:26-39). Peter utilized Isaiah 53:5-6 when he wrote 1 Peter 2:24-25. Jesus is the Servant who "poured out his life unto death" and bears "the sin of many" (53:12). Amen!

VanHorn is Dean of the Mississippi College School of Christian Studies and the Arts.

Why Do I Feel Empty? • Ecclesiastes 3:1, 10-14; 4:9-12; 5:1-7

After coming to the realization that life is meaninglessly apart from God, Solomon or the Preacher looks at the seasons of events, characteristic activities of life, that take place for everything under heaven. He creates this in the form of a beautiful poem containing seven couplets, each line expressing two opposite actions (3:2-8). Because of the repetition of the word "time," a definition of the use of it is logical. Time in this sense is "a duration, a measurable period, in which things happen." Time, which is completely irretrievable, forms the building blocks of life. The philosopher William James said, "The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."

A time "... to be born ... to die" refers to the limits of human life on earth. "... to plant ... to uproot" relates to farming the land. "... to kill ... to heal" describes life between a war zone and a medical station. "... to tear down ... to build" sounds strangely like urban renewal. "... to weep ... to laugh" and "... to mourn ... to dance" express sorrows and joys. "... to scatter stones ... to gather them" seems to refer to demolishing and rebuilding a structure. "... to embrace ... to refrain" may be significant of a friend's embrace of affirmation

in contrast to staying distant in confrontation. "... to search ... to give up" could be acquisition or loss in business or continuing to search for something or someone or discontinuing the search. "... to keep ... to throw away" brings to mind cleaning out a closet or going through the belongings of a loved one—evaluating and deciding what to keep and of what to dispose. "... to tear ...

to sew" may relate to the previous event or as rending a garment in mourning or disgust and sewing it together again. "... to love ... to hate"

signals the demonstration of love at appropriate times and of taking a stand against acts of injustice, prejudice and inequities as well. "... for war ... for peace" includes protection of freedoms and protection from tyranny. And, He has made everything beautiful in its time.

With this idea, "He has also set eternity

in the hearts of men; ..." Solomon expresses that God has given man the capacity to see beyond today, something no other creature can do. Being curious about tomorrow—wanting to know what's next—causes one to seek God. "Without that curiosity, I will never discover that there is a God." (Charles Swindoll)

Solomon approaches another argument

for vanity or meaninglessness of life by citing three ways that man is on the same level as animals: 1. They both die, 2. They both breathe the

same air, 3. They both return to dust at death. With this in mind, Solomon decides there is nothing better for man to do than enjoy his work, because he will not see what will come after him.

In observing the oppression that was taking place "under the sun," Solomon saw that for those who are oppressed there is

no comforter—no joy in living. Again he observed that labor and achievement often spring from selfish competition and man's envy of his neighbor rather than from the joy of having work to do and doing it well.

Cooperation with another person brings good returns on their work as illustrated by three situations—if one falls, his friend can help him up; if two lie down together, they will keep warm; if one is overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands refers to more than one companion, but could certainly include Christ along with two friends. The kings in verses 13-16 give example to the transitory nature of today's triumphs and glory—a lesson for people who have become overawed with their own personal achievements.

This section is about the need for reverence and honesty in worshiping God. The word "listen" means to hear, understand, and obey. When a vow is made to God, act on it quickly, and do not fail to fulfill your responsibility. Honor God and stand in awe of Him.

Duncan is a member of First Church, Starkville.

Explore the Bible

with Marion D. Duncan



PLAN

cont. from p. 1

develop a plan of action and, in the event of an active shooter in the church, to have the congregation already trained to "run, hide, or fight" depending on opportunity. Nowhere does the document advise church members to arm themselves

with guns or other weapons.

Jimmy Meeks, a Southern Baptist preacher and Texas police officer who helps churches implement plans to protect worshippers, said the guidebook repeats information he and others have offered for years.

"You have to have some things in place. We've been pleading with people [to prepare]," said Meeks, who speaks at Sheepdog Semi-

nars for churches, evoking the image of a dog protecting sheep, "but I'm glad the federal government has awakened to this ... but the truth is ... you just have to have some men in place in your congregation who've made up their mind if a shooter comes in, I'm going after him. I'm going down."

Violent deaths in churches have surpassed those in schools, said Meeks, who has tracked 433

such deaths in churches since 1999, including 128 in Baptist congregations.

"Since 1999, churches have surpassed schools as to where you're most likely to die a violent death. ... About 100 people less have died in schools since '99. Schools have actually gotten safer," Meeks said.

They're not all acts of shooters," he noted. "Two brothers were stabbed to death ... weeks

ago in Huntsville, Al., while working the church pantry. You're not supposed to die working at the church pantry. So it's not always shooters."

The federal panel's 32-page document for churches, downloadable at whitehouse.gov, was released under the umbrella of FEMA following the congressional defeat of Obama's gun control initiatives.

Just for the Record



PINOLA CHURCH, PINOLA, honored its fathers June 17. Shown are pastor Gene Erwin, Buddy Robinson, Charlie Robinson (oldest dad), Cash Robinson (youngest dad), Mitch Robinson and Rodney Ayles.

In other Church News:

► **Long Creek Church, Meridian**, will host Danny Wolfe in concert Aug. 4, 10:30 a.m. Love offering.

► **Chunky Church, Chunky**, will host Danny Wolfe in concert Aug. 4, 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 646-5404.

► **Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie**, will host Greater Vision in concert Aug. 8, 7 p.m. Love offering.



TERRY'S CREEK CHURCH, MAGNOLIA, held a van note burning May 5. Shown are pastor LaVerne Summerlin, Clark Wilson, Bill Prestridge, and Carey Ensminger.



The youth of **DRY CREEK CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION**, participated in Hydrate Camp at Laguna Beach Christian Retreat, Panama City, Fla., June 28 - July 1. One student made a commitment to sing and lead singing at the church.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Handsboro Church, Gulfport**: 139th anniversary, July 28; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch. Youth reunion, July 27. Randy Sims, speaker.

► **New Hope Church, Sumrall**: Revival, July 28 - Aug. 2; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Mike Lee, speaker; Phillip Butler, music; Charles Broome, pastor.

► **Antioch Church, Golden Triangle Association**: Homecoming, July 28; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and music by the Lovelace Family and other musical guests.

► **New Henleyfield Church, Henleyfield**: Homecoming, July 28; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Billy Warren, speaker.

► **Calvary Church, Carroll County**: Revival, July 28 - 31; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7

p.m. nightly; Lanny Haley, speaker; Wilton Neal, music.

► **County Line Church, Dossville**: Homecoming, July 28; services, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch; Danny Sephton, speaker; Allen Peoples, interim pastor.

► **Black Jack Church, Vaughan**: Revival, July 28 - 31; Sun., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Ken Anderson, speaker; Tommy and Carol Joy Sparkman, music.

► **McAdams Church, Kosciusko**: Revival, July 28 - 31; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Williams, speaker; James E. Young, pastor.

► **Rock Bluff Church, Daniel**: Homecoming, Aug. 4; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; love offering and cemetery offering; Mickey Ferguson, speaker; Landon Thompson and family, music.



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Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Photos must be submitted via e-mail. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Hard copy photographs will not be accepted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

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